

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of March 15, 2000.

With regard to the specification, it appears that Attachment B of the Preliminary Amendment dated August 13, 1998 is in error. A specification intended to be consistent with underlined and bracketed specification of Attachment A of the Preliminary Amendment is enclosed herewith. This enclosed specification is a copy of the specification as apparently originally filed in this divisional application, but includes a modification to the first page to recite the divisional status of the application. The Applicant apologizes for these matters and invites the Examiner to telephone Applicant's counsel if further resolution or clarification is necessary.

With regard to the objections to the declaration, the Applicant filed a replacement declaration on March 23, 2000.

The specification and drawings have been extensively amended to conform to the parent application serial no. 08/899,434 as amended on December 9, 1999 (and to related divisional applications). No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this obviates the objections of

numbered paragraphs 2-8 of the Office Action.

Similarly, the claims have been amended to obviate the objections and 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejections of numbered paragraphs 9-11.

Claim 49, to which the Examiner objected, has been rewritten in independent form. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 49 is in immediate condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 45-48 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the Bodolay reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,776,045) in view of the Kanemitsu reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,400,568) and the Johnson reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,664,303).

Claims 45 and 46 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 47 and its dependent claims are directed at the method of forming a reclosable bag in which the leading lip of the fastener is sealed to the web and the lagging flanges of both fasteners are respectively sealed to the front and rear walls spaced from the interlocking elements. This is not taught or suggested by the cited prior art, alone or in combination.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted

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that all of the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejections of the claims, to allow the claims, and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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